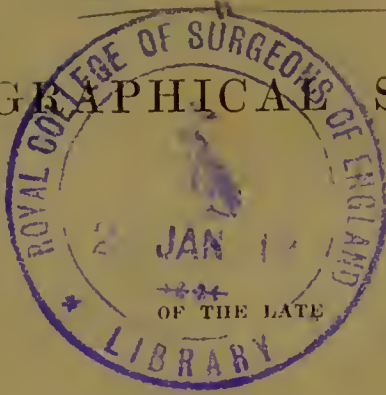


BIOGEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



Tracts
1643 ①

DR. ROBERT JACKSON,

Inspector of Military Hospitals.

BY THOMAS BARNES, M.D. F.R.S.E.
PHYSICIAN TO THE CARLISLE DISPENSARY AND FEVER HOSPITAL.

[From the Transactions of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.]

1850. II. 425-431

WORCESTER:
PRINTED BY H. B. TYMBS AND H. DEIGHTON,
JOURNAL OFFICE.





BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.



THE memoirs of eminent physicians are often both useful and instructive to the members of the profession. They not unfrequently furnish examples worthy of their imitation and emulation. The subject of the following memoir affords an instance of the power that strong natural talents, and great industry, possess, in raising men of humble birth and obscure station to honour and distinction. Although he was chiefly distinguished as an army physician, and as a scientific traveller, yet, as he devoted a part of his life to the duties of a provincial medical practitioner, this brief sketch may, perhaps, not improperly have a place in the *Transactions* of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.

The lives of scientific travellers are generally interesting. The objects of their pursuits are various: some spend their time in investigating plants and animals, and some in the examination of minerals. Every department of nature has its admirers: zoology, botany, mineralogy, and geology, have each engaged their attention, and have induced them to brave many dangers in distant countries. The investigation of malignant and fatal diseases, in a foreign country, would, to many persons, be an

uninviting pursuit. This belongs to the province of medicine; and the scientific physician finds it as interesting and engaging as any other. To the subject of this memoir, these diseases were great objects of attraction. The examination and treatment of malignant fevers, in various climates, and at various seasons, constituted the chief occupation of his life, and afforded him the greatest pleasure. In his youth, he studied them with the same minuteness and accuracy as in manhood; and in old age, with all the zeal and ardour of his youth.

Robert Jackson, M.D. inspector of army hospitals, and, for many years, chief of the medical department of the West Indies, was the son of a farmer in Lanarkshire, North Britain. Early in life he distinguished himself by his literary attainments, and by the zeal and assiduity with which he pursued his medical studies. He was born at Stone-Byers, near Lanark, in the year 1750. His parents were in poor circumstances; but what he wanted in patrimony, he made up by economy and industry. Having spent one winter in Edinburgh, he went on a voyage to Greenland, and saved as much money by the expedition, as enabled him to pass another winter at the University.

After this brief academical education at Edinburgh, and with only a scanty stock of professional knowledge, he commenced his medical career in the army. In the beginning of the year 1774, he embarked as a passenger for Jamaica, with Captain Cunningham, a seafaring man, who had been master of a transport at the siege of Havannah. From this person he received the first suggestion of the use of cold bathing in fever. One day, during the passage, the Captain told him, that in 1756, some sick persons who were on board of his ship, threw themselves into the sea, as if to drown themselves. The greater part of them, he observed, were recovered from the waves, and, as far as he recollected,

they were restored to their senses, and benefited in their health by the immersion. This fact struck young Jackson strongly, as applicable to the cure of fever, and he availed himself of the first favourable opportunity of making trial of a similar experiment in the person of a sailor, in the latter end of May of the same year. A detachment of the 1st battalion of the 60th regiment, at that time quartered at Savanna-la-mar, in Jamaica, was committed to his medical superintendance. Between 1774 and 1778 he resided in the West Indies, and here he laid the foundation of his future fame and acquirements, by patient investigation of disease, and by taking notes of the cases that came under his consideration. These records, or clinical descriptions, were remarkable for their accuracy and minuteness. It was the opinion of Jackson, at that time, that the remittent fevers of the West Indies proceeded in a definite course, and generally terminated on critical days. In this opinion, he says, he was afterwards confirmed, by observations made during a second residence in the same country.*

Being of an ardent and enterprising disposition, young Jackson thought the island of Jamaica afforded too limited a field for his observations: he wished to prosecute the study of fever in a new country, and, with this view, he volunteered service in the early part of the American war. His offer was accepted, and in 1778 he was appointed surgeon's mate to the late 71st regiment in North America, and obtained an ensigncy before the end of the war, it being not unusual at that time for one person to fill both situations. In this country, particularly on the southern States, he had extensive opportunities of observing different forms and degrees of fever, and he followed the rule he had adopted in Jamaica, of writing down histories and arranging facts at certain intervals.

He was always a most zealous medical officer,

* Sketches of the history and cure of febrile diseases.

and often displayed great intrepidity and courage. In a skirmish which took place between the belligerent parties, and when the British were defeated and retreating, an English officer, we believe Colonel Tarleton, had his horse shot under him, and was found by Jackson, who immediately dismounted, and requested the officer to take his horse and ride off, as his life was of great consequence, and was then in jeopardy; for himself, he said, being an obscure individual, he felt no alarm. With great difficulty, he prevailed on the officer to mount, and make his escape. The Americans speedily came up, and Jackson, with much firmness and presence of mind, held up a white pocket handkerchief, as a flag of truce. They took him prisoner. He told them he was by profession a physician, and would wish to attend the sick and wounded soldiers. To this request they readily assented, and were soon much pleased with his skill, activity, and attention. Not long afterwards, he was allowed to return to the English, and a letter of thanks was given to him, in which his talents and philanthropy were mentioned in very flattering terms. At another time, during the American war, Jackson displayed equal bravery and contempt of danger. After one of the battles, when the British troops were under the command of Lord Cornwallis, and were retreating, a building into which the sick and wounded had been carried, was riddled by the shot of the enemy, and visiting it became so dangerous that the surgeons proposed casting lots to determine which of them should go and attend the wounded soldiers. Jackson, whose feelings were ever alive to the sufferings of his fellow creatures, was present, and when the proposal was made to him, he said, "No, no! I will go and attend them:" and he did so.

In 1793, we find that he was an ensign on half-pay, and settled, as physician, at Stockton-upon-Tees, where he enjoyed a high reputation, and an

extensive practice. But previous to this time, and after his return from America, in 1782, he devoted several years to the improvement of his academical knowledge. He travelled over a great part of Europe, in search of information, and visited many medical and military establishments. He studied for some time at Paris, and afterwards went to Leyden, where he took the degree of Doctor in Medicine.

Private practice, in a provincial town, neither suited his views nor disposition. He wished to enlarge the sphere of his observations, and in the month of September, 1793, he offered to serve as army physician to the troops which were collecting for an expedition destined for the West Indies. The investigation of tropical fever still occupied much of his attention, and he thought he should have a better opportunity of extending his views, and prosecuting his studies of it, in the army, than in civil life. Not having borne a medical commission, Dr. Jackson was not eligible to the rank of physician to the forces, according to a regulation of that day, made by the late Mr. Hunter, who was then surgeon-general, and his wishes were not complied with. Being disappointed in this expectation, he accepted the rank of surgeon to the 3rd regiment of foot, or the Buffs, destined for the West Indies, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Grey, under the condition that he should be elected physician, on the first proper occasion. The destination of the corps was changed: it was sent out, under Earl Moira, to invade France; and after reconnoitering the coast at a distance, for some days, returned to England. The Buffs were very sickly, and suffered much from contagious fever. Jackson afterwards accompanied the regiment to Flanders, where he had ample opportunity of tracing all the varieties of infectious fever usually denominated typhus. In the autumn of 1794, the Buffs arrived at Bergen-op-zoom, in high health; but

very soon afterwards most of them, excepting only the commissioned officers, were attacked with the usual fever.

His late Royal Highness the Duke of York, Commander-in-chief, being aware of Dr. Jackson's great merits and services, appointed him, in 1795, acting physician to the forces; and a short time after, on the death of Dr. Kennedy, who had served as inspector of hospitals, he was raised to the rank of chief inspector, and succeeded him. This was also the act of his Royal Highness the Duke of York. The Doctor not having the usual qualifications, the medical board opposed the appointment, and remonstrated against it. But notwithstanding the opposition, he retained the situation until the British troops were withdrawn from the Continent; and he discharged the arduous duties devolving upon him, with much ability and zeal.

Immediately after his return, he went to the island of St. Domingo, and there availed himself of the opportunity of examining the nature and causes of endemic, and epidemic disease. The duty assigned to him, it is said, afforded him the means of investigating these diseases more fully than any other person on the medical staff of that island.

Self-advancement was never his object. It will ever redound to his praise for moderation and disinterestedness, that having obtained the rank of army physician, he never afterwards solicited higher rank or emolument; and he always offered his services to the public when he thought they would be useful. He was desirous of extending his knowledge of fever in the West Indies, and, in 1796, accompanied the expedition which was sent out to Saint Domingo, under the command of General Sir Ralph Abercrombie. The division of troops assembled at the Cove of Cork, in the month of October, 1795, and being detained the greater part of the winter, in very confined quarters, the mortality was consi-

derable. Those that were under the care of Dr. Jackson, at a temporary hospital in Spike Island, were treated by him with great success. In St. Domingo he was inspector and head of the medical department, and was unremitting in his investigations of disease; he collected facts with much patience and research, and he continued his usual practice of writing the history of cases at the bedside of his patients.

From St. Domingo, Dr. Jackson made an excursion of pleasure, through the United States of America, with his friend Dr. Borland, who has paid a just and honourable tribute to his memory, in a memoir read at the anniversary meeting of the officers of the medical department, 12th of May, 1827.* The yellow fever was then prevailing at Philadelphia and New York, and Dr. Jackson seized the opportunity of making himself well acquainted with the disease. In the city of Philadelphia alone, it is said, that not less than 3446 persons fell victims to the epidemic. Here he had the happiness of meeting the celebrated Dr. Rush, and some other American physicians, who paid him marked respect and attention, his professional character and reputation having previously reached them.

In the year 1798, he returned home; and after the British troops were withdrawn from Holland, in the latter end of the following year, the medical superintendance of the Russian auxiliary force, which acted with the British in the expedition to the Helder, and consisted of 17,000 men, was entrusted to him, by desire of the Russian Ambassador, Count Woronzow. The troops were ordered to the islands of Jersey and Guernsey, for winter cantonments, and being crowded in the transports during boisterous weather, became very sickly. A severe infectious fever prevailed among them; and such was the eminent success of Dr. Jackson's practice and good

* Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, No. 94.

management, that his Royal Highness, the Commander-in-chief, was induced to appoint him, the following year, (1800) on the death of Dr. Mitchell, to the situation of army physician, and head of the army depôt hospital at Chatham. When this depôt was removed to the Isle of Wight, the accommodations were inadequate to the necessities of the sick, and the number of sick increased during the whole winter. The disease, Dr. Jackson remarked, was aggravated by several circumstances; and being ever anxious to benefit both the soldier and the public, he introduced many alterations and improvements into the diet tables of the sick and convalescent. Great order, economy, and arrangement, were also observed in the wards of the hospital; and the expenditure was considerably diminished. At the time of his appointment, the full diet of a sick soldier, was a pound of beef more daily, than for a soldier on duty in barracks. Than this nothing could be more absurd. The rate of diet was reduced; the sick had a sufficient allowance, and a great saving was effected. It so happened, that greater numbers than usual, of serious cases, were admitted into the hospital at this period, and, consequently, there was a greater mortality than before. A number of recruits and invalids had been always in the hospital before this time; and when they were affected with the itch, or any other trifling complaint, were put on the hospital books. As the Doctor had received several appointments without the sanction of the army medical board, his alterations of the diet table excited considerable jealousy. He was accused, by the board, of putting the patients upon too scanty an allowance; and this was very unjustly alleged as the principal cause of the increased mortality. The cold affusion which he employed in the cure of fever, was also represented as a dangerous and destructive practice. A regular investigation took place: Dr. Jackson was excu-

pated, and the Commander-in-chief testified his approbation of the Doctor's services and conduct. The physician and surgeon-general, however, still retained their official situations; and the Doctor finding that he could not serve satisfactorily under them, resigned, and again returned to Stockton-upon-Tees. The Commander-in-chief, in accepting Dr. Jackson's resignation, expressed deep regret at the loss of the services of so valuable a medical officer, and said he retired without a stain upon his character. Being in London a short time afterwards, the Doctor met Mr. Keate, the surgeon-general, in the street: some angry words passed between them, and though Jackson was naturally of a meek and placid disposition, yet feeling that he had been calumniated, and unjustly treated by him, he held up his umbrella, and told the surgeon-general he might consider himself as horsewhipped for his behaviour; but if he did not think that enough, he (the Doctor) would do it for him properly. For this, Mr. Keate brought an action of assault; and Dr. Jackson was convicted, and sent to the King's Bench until he should make an apology, which the writer has been informed he never made. An intimate friend who called to see him when in prison, found him alone, with his table covered with books and papers, busily occupied writing, and apparently quite happy. After his liberation he lived some years in retirement, and devoted himself chiefly to literary pursuits.

A new arrangement of the medical department of the British army, similar to what he had often proposed and strongly advocated, took place in 1810. The board, which consisted of a physician-general, a surgeon-general, and an inspector-general, was dissolved, and a director-general appointed. The same objections to his taking office, therefore, no longer existed. In the year 1811, great sickness prevailed among the soldiers of the British army

in the Windward and Leeward Islands, and Dr. Jaekson voluntarily came forward and offered his services: they were accepted, and the charge of the medical department was confided to him. He repaired to the spot where the fever prevailed, and visited the patients five or six times every day, with a view to ascertain every thing relative to the history of the disease, and the manner of treating it. He attributed it to an epidemic influence, or general condition of the air. In not one instance could he trace it to contagion. He remained several years in the West Indies, and carefully investigated the topography and diseases of the islands of Barbadoes, Antigua, St. Christopher, St. Eustatius, St. Martin, St. Thomas, Santa Cruz, Guadaloupe, Dominica, Martinico, St. Lucie, St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, and Trinidad; and the colonies of Demerara, Berbice, and Surinam. He also visited and inspected the island of Jamaica, under a special commission. Of every island and station he made a valuable official report to the director-general. In 1815 he returned to England, and afterwards published a summary of these reports, and the substance of his observations during his service in the West Indies.

Among the various remedies employed by Dr. Jaekson, was cobweb. He appears to have entertained a very high opinion of its medicinal qualities.* He says it was more effectual than bark, or any other remedy, in preventing the recurrence of intermittent fevers, and that it possessed virtues in allaying pains and spasms, and other forms of irritation, superior to opium, or any anodyne with which he was acquainted. It very rarely failed to relieve the more alarming symptoms of the remittent or continued fever, unless such as depend on deep congestion, or actual inflammation in the membranes or substance of internal organs. The writer of this memoir takes the opportunity of mentioning, that not

* Sketch, &c. of febrile diseases, p. 259. 1817.

long ago he administered the cobweb, so much praised by Dr. Jackson, in a case of intermittent fever, without the least apparent benefit. The disease resisted both cobweb and quinine, and yielded readily to arsenic. Though it would be wrong to draw any inference from a single case, and that case an obstinate intermittent, it is not improbable that Jackson much over-rated the virtues and efficacy of the remedy.

In the summer of 1819, a fever of an alarming kind made its appearance at Cadiz. It was reported to be the yellow fever, which had ravaged the sea coasts of the south parts of Spain, at intervals, since the beginning of the present century. Dr. Jackson had seen much of the disease called yellow fever, in the West Indies, but the disease bearing that name in Spain, had not yet come under his notice, and he was anxious to learn, by his own experience, their difference or identity. He also conceived, that it might be an object of some importance to the nation, to ascertain, distinctly, whether or not it was contagious; and with the true spirit of philanthropy and love of science, this veteran physician proposed to the British government to go to Cadiz, and investigate the nature and causes of the fever. He made the offer through the director-general of the medical department, without any other condition than a passage free of expense, and such a mode of introduction to the Spanish authorities, as would enable him to prosecute his object without interruption. The offer was acceded to; and he embarked at Falmouth in December, and arrived at Gibraltar about the end of the month. A few days after, when in the act of setting out from Gibraltar to Cadiz, the governor of the garrison received information that an insurrection had taken place among the military; that the *Isla de Leon* was in their possession, and the route to Cadiz, by land, consequently, obstructed.

This occurrence defeated his purpose. He remained nearly two months at Gibraltar, and then undertook a journey to the Levant, at his own expense, partly with the design of seeing Greece, and partly in the hope of obtaining information respecting the diseases of the Mediterranean shores, particularly the plague. It was also his intention to visit the whole of the Ionian Islands that were under the protection of the British; and, after that to have continued his course, by the sea coasts of Italy, France, and Spain, to Gibraltar. His important object in pursuing this extended route, was to observe the medical topography of the different parts on the sea coast, and to enlarge and correct his views respecting the material cause of febrile diseases as a subject of general science. In prosecution of the above purposes, he went from Gibraltar to Malta, Constantinople, Smyrna, Athens, and the Morea; and embarked at Patras for Zante. He was disappointed of witnessing the plague, as it did not prevail in the Levant during the time of his excursion. He was also disappointed in some of the other objects of his journey. He arrived at Zante in the month of June, and as it was his determination to be at Cadiz in August, to investigate the nature of the yellow fever, he had too little time to complete his journey. His advanced age, his infirm state of health, and his narrow pecuniary means, induced him to abandon the idea of travelling by land, and he embraced the first opportunity that presented itself of proceeding by water. He embarked at Zante, and arrived in the latter end of July at Gibraltar, and from thence he set out for Cadiz, where he arrived on the 25th of August. It was a remarkable circumstance, that the yellow fever had reappeared, and was announced on the very day Dr. Jackson entered the city, where it continued epidemic for two months or more. A similar disease, but more severe and fatal, raged at

Xeres-de-la-Frontera about the same time; and after he had satisfied himself respecting the malady that prevailed at Cadiz, he went to the former place, with the view of ascertaining the nature of the disease there. Mr. O'Halloran, an active, able, and zealous surgeon, accompanied him to Cadiz and Xeres, to whom he acknowledges having been under great obligations.

At the time Dr. Jackson entered the army, much unnecessary expenditure was incurred in the management of the military hospitals, and he was the means of afterwards introducing various reforms in their economy and arrangement, by which large sums were saved to government. For these things, he was considered, by certain persons, meddling and officious; and although his reforms were great improvements, they made him many enemies. In the year 1796, he proposed a plan of economical management for the hospitals of the colonial and foreign troops, which were added to the British army for service in the island of St. Domingo. The plan was simple, viz. a ration suitable for sick persons, commuted *ad valorem*—fresh meat, in place of salt; soft bread, instead of biscuits; wine, in place of rum; with the power of augmenting one part of the ration, viz. rice and sugar, and diminishing another, viz. beef and bread, at the discretion of the medical officer. The plan, which is obviously rational and plain, was carried into effect, but not without opposition, for it annulled a contract which, contrary to usage in the British service, had been made with colonial colonels, for the subsistence of the sick of their respective corps, at rates which certainly were most extravagant. By the plan substituted for this contract, the sick of the colonial troops, it is said, were amply provided for, and the enormous sum of £80,000 per annum was saved to the British government. The late much lamented Commander-in-chief was convinced of the justice

and expediency of the Doctor's measures and views, and by his powerful interest the reforms proposed were effected. Such were Dr. Jackson's claims upon the government, that, in addition to his half-pay as inspector of hospitals, he was, for many years, allowed £200 per annum, in consideration of his services in the West Indies.

Dr. Jackson was the author of several valuable works, upon each of which we shall take leave to make a few brief remarks. It is not intended to review or analyse them, but merely to glance at some of their leading features. In 1791, Dr. Jackson published "A Treatise on the Fevers of Jamaica, with Observations on the Intermittent Fevers of America; and an Appendix, containing hints on the means of preserving the Health of Soldiers in Hot Climates." This interesting work was his earliest performance, and contains several valuable and original observations, made by the author during his first residence in the West Indies and America. He was army surgeon first in Jamaica, and afterwards in the Southern States of America, where he had extensive opportunities of observing the different forms and degrees of fever.

In the year 1798, he gave to the world his "Outlines of the History and Cure of Fever, endemic and contagious, more particularly the Contagious Fevers of Jails, Ships, and Hospitals; with an Explanation of the Principles of Military Discipline and Economy, and a Scheme of Medical Management of Armies." Many parts of this work discover great and laborious research. Marsh miasma and contagion, Dr. Jackson considered the only causes of fevers, whether endemic or contagious. The source of endemic fever, he says, is a natural one, common to the whole earth; the source of contagious fever is artificial, produced by arrangements which take place among men, in certain states of society, and by an altered condition of the living human body.

The former fever shews no disposition to propagate itself; the latter multiplies with great activity. This argument is urged by our author, with great perspicuity, and is placed in various lights. In this treatise, he controverts the rules laid down by Dr. Currie, for the application of cold water to the surface, in cases of fever, and gives others of his own. This powerful remedy was frequently used by the antient physicians in fever, under various but undefined circumstances. Dr. Jackson was the first among the moderns who employed it to any considerable extent; and he first introduced it into the hospitals of the British army. It must, however, be admitted, that the principles by which Dr. Currie was guided in the use of the remedy, were much more rational, clear, and explicit; and his practice was also more successful. But it ought to be remembered, that Dr. Jackson's patients resided in the West Indies, and he had, probably, to treat a more complicated, dangerous, and fatal disease than Dr. Currie. Much benefit is attributed, by our author, to gestation or travelling, in certain instances, in the fevers of St. Domingo and America.

In 1803, he published "Remarks on the Constitution of the Medical Department of the British Army, with a Detail of Hospital Management; and an Appendix, attempting to explain the Action of Causes in producing Fever, and the Operation of Remedies in effecting Cure." In 1804, appeared his "Systematic View of the Discipline, Formation, and Economy of Armies." From both of these works it would appear, that our author was by no means either an elegant or pleasing writer. Though they contain much useful and valuable information, the absence of grace, perhaps, of perspicuity, in the style, caused them to attract less notice than they deserved. The observations contained in the former volume, were of great practical importance; and though they did not at first meet with the approba-

tion of those to whose consideration they were submitted, they were afterwards fully appreciated, and attended to by the inspector-general of hospitals. The diseases of armies, and particularly febrile diseases, had always engrossed much of his attention. He had devoted nearly his whole medical life to the study and investigation of fevers, which he had witnessed of the most malignant kind, in a greater variety of climate, and under more various circumstances than almost any other physician. In this work he endeavours to communicate his knowledge and experience to the medical world. Some account is added of the causes that induced him to resign his situation at the depôt at the Isle of Wight. A letter had been addressed to the Secretary at War, stating that an unprecedented mortality had taken place among the soldiers, both at the Isle of Wight and at Chatham, and that it was occasioned by the mode of treatment followed by our author. He justifies himself from this accusation, by shewing that the deaths arose from the malignant nature of the diseases which prevailed; and in this he was borne out by the evidence of the four physicians, who were deputed, by the medical board, to examine and report upon the state of Parkhurst hospital, of which he had the superintendance. It is remarkable enough, that the mortality increased very much under the physicians who succeeded Dr. Jackson in the charge of the hospital. It does not appear, however, that this circumstance was attributed to any neglect or improper treatment on the part of these physicians.

About this time, Dr. Jackson addressed a letter to the Editor of the *Edinburgh Review*, in which he had been traduced and misrepresented. It was insinuated that he had evinced some want of candour and veracity in describing his practice of cold affusion. This insinuation he proved to be unfounded. The affusion of cold water on the surface,

was employed by De Haen, in the year 1737. It was tried by Dr. Wright, in his own person, in 1777; but the latter did not repeat the experiment, or publish the fact until the year 1786. Dr. Jackson made use of this remedy in 1774; and in 1791, he published his Treatise on the Fevers of Jamaica, which contained stronger commendation, and fuller proof, of the benefits of cold affusion, in certain circumstances of fever, than any modern book then extant.

In 1808, he produced an "Exposition of the practice of affusing Cold Water on the surface of the Body, as a remedy for the cure of Fever; to which are added Remarks on the effects of Cold Drink, and of Gestation in the open air, in certain Conditions of that Disease." This work seems to be an elucidation and extension of some of the preceding volumes on the same subjects. In it our author controverts the principal points of Dr. Currie's doctrine, and states, though not in very definite and intelligible terms, the principles by which he regulated his own practice.

Diffusiveness of style, and looseness of expression, were the great faults of Dr. Jackson's early writings. He admits that the doctrine he labours to substitute in the place of Dr. Currie's, is obscure, and difficult to understand. He frankly acknowledges, that, after all the attention he has given the subject, he is still unable to produce an unerring rule by which the application of cold water can be safely regulated. This volume contains a description of various forms of fever; and shews that he possessed considerable discrimination, and was a careful observer and collector of facts. The practice of cold affusion in febrile diseases, so strongly recommended, and so much praised, by Drs. Jackson and Currie, is now seldom had recourse to, and their controversy excites little interest. The remedy is perhaps, better suited to the warmer regions, than to this country;

and the indiscriminate use of it, probably, injured its reputation. Sponging the patients body with vinegar and water, or tepid water, according to circumstances, is more generally adopted.

Dr. Currie's "Medical Reports" claim our admiration as specimens of classical composition, philosophical enquiry, and rational induction. His writings evince that he was an accomplished scholar, as well as a sagacious physician. In accuracy of observation, he was equal to Dr. Jackson; in clearness of argument, he was his superior.

In the volume now before us, Dr. Jackson gives a short history of the introduction of cold bathing as a remedy for fever. This history is necessarily imperfect; the author's mode of life prevented him from having access to those records which are rarely met with, except in extensive libraries.

In 1817, "A Sketch of the History and Cure of Febrile Diseases, more particularly as they appear in the West Indies, among the Soldiers of the British Army," was published by our author. This excellent work, though called a sketch, is, more properly speaking, an epitome of all the practical observations made by him on febrile diseases. In the course of a long and varied medical life, he had collected materials, on this subject, sufficient to form two quarto volumes; and as it was not in his power to print a work of that magnitude, he analysed these materials, and produced a summary or compendious abridgment of them in the present treatise.

In 1819, he published "A Sketch of the History and Cure of Contagious Fever." This volume contains the author's views of contagious fever, in the two-fold capacity of army physician and private practitioner. It abounds with profound researches and valuable remarks, and should be read by every one who wishes to obtain a correct knowledge of the phenomena of fever. The object of these two works, as the author informs us, was to give the

result of his observations and experience, in the history and treatment of febrile diseases. He has been severely censured and ridiculed for misuse of language, and for the obscurity of his doctrine and principles. In these volumes he endeavours to explain and elucidate his opinions and practice, adding corroborative documents in support of them. That peculiar phraseology which he had always employed, may, however, in some places, still be found; and perhaps, it would be too much to expect that he should, at a late period of life, entirely divest himself of it. The materials from which these treatises are formed, were collected during long experience in various scenes of service, and were both original and authentic. They evince extensive and laborious observation, originality of thought, and great discrimination and judgment. They also clearly prove him to have been a bold, an active, and a judicious practitioner. They may, undoubtedly, be considered his best medical works; and upon them, must rest his future fame as an author, as well as a learned and skilful physician.

In 1821, Dr. Jackson published "Remarks on the Epidemic Yellow Fever, which has appeared, at intervals, on the south coast of Spain, since the year 1800." This is decidedly the best work on the subject; and, in the opinion of some persons, the author's best production. It contains a fund of most valuable information, clothed in appropriate language. Dr. Jackson gives an animated sketch of the medical topography of the country; a short history of the yellow fever of the south of Spain; and an elaborate and accurate description of the disease. He concludes that it is not contagious, and recommends blood-letting, and other means of depletion, as the best remedies. He ascribes the origin of the malady to the physical qualities of the soil and atmosphere, and to the habits and modes of life of the Spaniards. Dr. O'Halloran, who accompanied him, came to the same conclusions.

In 1823, he produced "An Outline of hints for the Political Organization and Moral Training of the Human Race." Our author had, for a considerable time, devoted his attention to these subjects; but to frame a constitution of government, for the equal benefit of all mankind, and to propound a system of education, or moral training, calculated to make man what he ought to be, were undertakings too great and difficult for him, or, perhaps, for any other person, to accomplish. The outline of moral training promulgated in this work, will, in all probability, never be put to the test of experiment; and even if it were, it is not at all likely that any system thereon founded, could long exist, or be attended with the important advantages ascribed to it by the author. The scheme of political organization he proposes, is bold and speculative: it cannot be said to be wicked or mischievous, but will be deemed, by many persons, as visionary and impracticable. Dr. Jackson was a sincere believer of the truths of Christianity, and he often refers to them in the present essay. In politics he was republican; and probably imbibed many of his political principles during his residence in America.

A much more interesting and valuable work, on a subject somewhat similar to the preceding, was published, by Dr. Jackson, in 1804; of which a second edition, entitled "A View of the Formation, Discipline, and Economy of armies, with an Appendix containing hints for Medical Arrangement in Actual War," one volume quarto, appeared in 1824. This is a truly learned and excellent work. To princes and statesmen, to commanders, and military officers of every rank, and of every country, this is a most instructive and useful book. Yet, as the venerable author observes, "it did not obtain the notice of the public, and slept in its cradle for twenty years." In the second edition, the work was much enlarged, and its style and language improved.

Dr. Jackson had benefited by a more extended experience. He had now served in three British wars, and had been often near the scene of active service; he had, moreover, several opportunities of seeing and examining the condition of most of the armies of the military powers of Europe. This work may be said to contain an invaluable mine of knowledge of the subject upon which he treats.

Besides the works already mentioned, our learned and estimable author, wrote several articles in the periodical journals of the day. "A case of Sphacelation of the Intestine," in the *Medical and Physical Journal*, vol. 7. "On the virtues of the Spider's Web;" *idem*, vol. 21 and vol. 22. "On the virtues of Eye-bright;" *idem*, vol. 23; &c.

Dr. Jackson continued incessant in his application to study, and was engaged in making corrections of his earlier works, even a few days before his death. This event was occasioned by a paralytic affection, and took place at Thursly, near Carlisle, April 6th, 1827, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. It was the melancholy duty of the writer of this narrative, to attend him professionally in his last illness. After his decease the writer was presented with a copy of his works, from which the materials of the narrative have been chiefly collected. It is hoped that some one better qualified for the task, and furnished with more ample materials, will favour the world with a more ample account of his life and writings. The acquisition of professional knowledge for the benefit of mankind, was the ruling passion of this truly philanthropic person. Only a few weeks before his death, he made an offer to the director-general of the army medical department, to waive his rank, and proceed to Portugal, and perform the duty of a physician in the military hospitals, under the control of a junior. From the many perilous labours he underwent, in various countries, and the vicissitudes of climate to which

he was often exposed, he must have enjoyed an uncommon share of health, and possessed great strength of constitution, as well as strength of mind. To use his own words, "heat and cold, hunger, thirst, and other privations, not inferior in degree to those which fell to the lot of soldiers in the service of the field, were not unknown to him; and, though his physical powers never stood high, in a scale of comparison, he rarely yielded to the hardships, under which stronger men complained or sunk." He was of a middle stature, and of a slender frame, and had, what phrenologists consider incompatible with great talents, a small head. He was twice married. By his first wife he had two sons. About two years before his death he married Miss Tidy, sister of Colonel Tidy, and of Mrs. Charuley, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Dr. Jackson possessed considerable classical acquirements, and great facility in learning languages. He had a thorough acquaintance with the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, as well as the French, Spanish, Arabic, and Gaelic languages. During the latter period of his life, he often employed himself in comparing the Bible in the original language, with the modern translations. He has left behind him the reputation of a man of great talents and extensive learning, indefatigable industry, and strict integrity, who was always assiduous in the right discharge of all the offices of public and private life. He was a man of great philanthropy, disinterestedness, and humanity; and was ever anxious for the promotion of medical science, and the melioration of the human race. History, perhaps, does not furnish us with a stronger instance of unbounded and unremitting zeal for the acquisition of useful knowledge, and of unlimited beneficence in promoting the health and welfare of his fellow creatures. A man who could leave his kindred and his country, to travel in foreign climes, amidst pestilence and death, for the purpose of re-

lieving suffering humanity, and promoting medical science ;—who, without reward, and at the risk of his own health, and of his life, would attend the sick, the dying, and the destitute, well deserves the admiration and gratitude, not only of his own countrymen, but also of the friends of humanity in every part of the world.

